(c) to (e) No such proposal is under consideration with National Horticulture Board as the existing rate of assistance has been considered to be adequate.

Suicides in Maharashtra

502. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 farmers committed suicides in Maharashtra between 2002 and 2004;

(b) if so, whether Government had at that time failed in protecting the lives of the innocent farmers;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken action against officials/ concerned persons responsible for this gross irresponsible act; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Horticulture Mission in Orissa

503. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Horticulture Mission in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mission proposes to adopt an end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management to marketing to ensure appropriate return to the growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government